

Natural Resource Consultants

May 7, 2001

Mr. Troy Valenzuela
Stocker Resources, Inc.
5640 South Fairfax Avenue
Inglewood, California 90056

Subject: Biological Resources Evaluation of a Proposed Peaker Power Plant Project on the Stocker Resources, Inc. Inglewood Property, Located in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Valenzuela:

Natural Resource Consultants (NRC) was retained by Stocker Resources Inc. to conduct a biological resources evaluation of an approximately 2-acre Peaker Power Plant Project site located on the Stocker Resources Inc. Inglewood property. The proposed 2-acre power plant site will hereafter be referred to as the site. The site occurs in the Baldwin Hills east of La Cienega Boulevard and north of Lincoln Avenue in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. Active oil field operations and a matrix of disturbed lands and fragments of native and non-native vegetation surround the site. Elevations on site range between approximately 332 feet and 350 feet above mean sea level.

Based on the results of NRC's biological evaluation, the proposed site meets all technical biological conditions of certification as defined by Attachment D of the California Energy Commission Standard Conditions of Certification Emergency Permitting Projects according to Executive Order D-25-01 issued by Governor Davis in February 2001.

SURVEY METHODS

NRC's biologist Mr. Michael Couffer conducted a literature search to identify sensitive plants, wildlife, and habitats known to occur in the vicinity of the site. The California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (Skinner and Pavlik 1998), and the compendia of special status species published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) were reviewed.

Mr. Michael Couffer and Mr. David Levine conducted a site survey on May 2, 2001 to describe the existing biological conditions and evaluate the potential of onsite habitats to support sensitive plant and wildlife species. All plant and wildlife species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for future identification using keys in Hickman (1993), Munz (1974), and Abrams (1923). Taxonomy follows Hickman (1993) for scientific and common names. Roberts (1998) was used for common names when none were listed in Hickman (1993).

SURVEY RESULTS

Vegetation communities on the site are disturbed and provide low habitat value for wildlife species. Few native plant or wildlife species were observed on site. Biological resources observed on site and adjacent to the site are described below.

Vegetation

Vegetation communities observed on site include annual grasslands (covering approximately one third of the site), and developed/barren areas (covering two thirds of the site). Vegetation communities adjacent to the site include developed areas, barren areas, and fragments of California sagebrush dominated coastal sage scrub.

Dominant plants within annual grasslands include non-native, weedy plant species such as bromes (*Bromus*), oats (*Avena*), wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), mustard (*Brassica* sp.), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), white nightshade (*Solanum americanum*), pampus grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*) Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica*) and three sapling palms (*Palmae*). The developed/barren areas covers manmade structures and areas cleared to bare ground or covered with thin vegetation such as dirt roads, trails, and other highly disturbed areas.

Fragments of disturbed California sagebrush vegetation lie to the north, east, and west of the proposed site. No coastal sage scrub vegetation occurs within the site. The scrub vegetation is dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*). Other native and non-native plant species occurring at lower densities within this community include Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), mustard (*Brassica* sp.), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*).

Wildlife Habitat

Based on the weedy and disturbed nature of the existing vegetation communities, the site provides habitat primarily for non-native wildlife species. Bird species observed during NRC's survey included species commonly seen within disturbed or urbanized habitats within the vicinity. These species included mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), rock dove or feral pigeon (*Columba livia*), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), and European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). No evidence of mammal presence was seen on the site, but mammals expected to use this site include house mouse (*Mus musculus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis holzneri*), and Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*). One common reptile species, the western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), was seen along the margin of the site. One butterfly species, the common or checkered white (*Pontia protodice*) was seen adjacent to the project footprint. Habitats within the project footprint are inappropriate for supporting amphibian or fish species.

Sensitive Habitat and Critical Habitat

No wetlands, riparian areas, or other sensitive habitat types or sensitive vegetation communities occur on site. The site is not included within the boundaries of critical habitat for any federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species

No sensitive plant or wildlife species occur on site.

Plant Species

The site is not expected to support plant species considered to be of special interest by the USFWS, CDFG, or CNPS. A search of the California Native Plant Society's Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California identified six plant species occurring within the U. S. Geological Survey quadrangle covering the project site. The site does not support any suitable habitat for any of these plants and none of these species occur on site.

Wildlife Species

The site does not support any suitable habitat for any wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS or CDFG. The patches of coastal sage scrub habitat located adjacent to the site provide minimal potential to support the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*). This species has not been recorded in the vicinity of the site and no coastal California gnatcatcher sightings or suitable gnatcatcher habitats was observed on site by Michael Couffer, a federally-permitted gnatcatcher biologist, during NRC's May 2, 2001 biological inspection of the site.

MEASURES TO AVOID AND MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to biological resources. To ensure the project is consistent with Attachment D of the California Energy Commission Standard Conditions of Certification Emergency Permitting Projects according to Executive Order D-25-01 issued by Governor Davis in February 2001, the following measures are recommended.

1. The project permitted under this emergency process will include construction and operations methods identified in Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art (APLIC 1996).
2. The project biologist will have access to the site and linear rights of way at any time prior to and during construction and have the authority to halt construction in an area necessary to protect a sensitive biological resource at any time.
3. Upon full decommissioning of the site, the site will be hydroseeded with a coastal sage scrub.

Mr. Troy Valenzuela
May 7, 2001
Page 4 of 5

TECHNICAL AREA CONDICTIONS OF CERTIFICATION

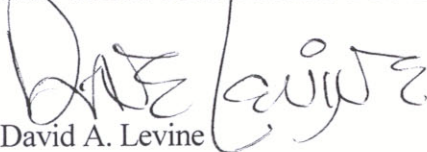
The proposed site meets all technical conditions of certification as defined by Attachment D of the California Energy Commission Standard Conditions of Certification Emergency Permitting Projects according to Executive Order D-25-01 issued by Governor Davis in February 2001.

- BIO-1 The project permitted under this emergency process avoids all impacts to legally protected species and their habitat on site, adjacent to the site and along the right of way for linear facilities.
- BIO-2 The project permitted under this emergency process avoids all impacts to designated critical habitat on site and adjacent to the site.
- BIO-3 The project permitted under this emergency process avoids all impacts to locally designated sensitive species and protected areas.
- BIO-4 The project permitted under this emergency process will reduce risk of large bird electrocution by electrical transmission lines and interconnection between structures, substations.
- BIO-5 The project biologists, are persons knowledgeable of the local and regional biological resources, and CPM will have access to the site and linear rights of way at any time prior to and during construction and have the authority to halt construction in an area necessary to protect a sensitive biological resource at any time.
- BIO6 Upon decommissioning the site, the biological resources value will be reestablishing at preconstruction level or better.

If you have questions or comments pertaining to any material provided in this letter report please contact me directly at 949.497.0931.

Sincerely,

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSULTANTS


David A. Levine

REFERENCES

- Abrams, L. 1923. Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States, Volumes I, II, and III. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California
- Atwood, J. L. 1990. Status Review of the California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*). Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Massachusetts.
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- Franzreb, K. E. 1989. Ecology and Conservation of the Endangered Least Bell=s Vireo. Biological Report 89(1). United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Munz, P.A. 1974. A Flora of Southern California. University of California Press, Berkeley, California.
- Hickman, J. C. Editor 1993. The Jepson Manual Higher Plants of California. University of California Press, Berkeley, California.
- Roberts, F.M. 1998. A Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Orange County, California. F.M. Roberts Publications, Encinitas, California.
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